



Childhood Trauma Can Cause a Lifetime of Hardship, But It Doesn't Have To

Jenny* had lived through her stepfather sexually abusing her for six years before she found the courage to tell her mom. She was 14 years old, confused and afraid. Thankfully, her mom believed her and took immediate steps to protect her from further abuse.

“We know that when a mother and other caregivers believe and support their child, the long-term outcomes are significantly better for the child regardless of a criminal outcome,” said Gwen O’Brien, Director of Advocacy and Prevention Services for Synergy.” Believing and protecting a child builds resiliency in a way that sending someone to jail cannot.”



Jenny, her mom and brother came to Synergy’s Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC)—where they had access to a multidisciplinary team dedicated to investigating, prosecuting and providing healing services for child abuse victims.

Jenny first met with Synergy’s forensic interviewer who is specially trained to gather all the information needed by law enforcement and child welfare services for the investigation process. By working as a team and using the CAC model, Jenny only had to talk with the interviewer rather than disclose details of abuse to multiple professionals.

Beyond justice, Jenny and her mom and brother needed to process and heal from all that had happened and adjust to their new single-parent family dynamic. They found the support they needed through ongoing individual and family therapy at Synergy, and additional guidance from their CAC advocate who helped them navigate the court process and child welfare system.

Child abuse and other forms of childhood trauma can have lifelong effects on children and families, and compounding costs for communities. Synergy strives to support families throughout the healing process and limit negative outcomes. Evidence-based mental health treatments like those delivered at Synergy’s CAC can significantly reduce trauma symptoms and prevent the long-term effects of trauma exposure. Together we can make a real difference for these children, with a ripple effect that will be felt for generations.

[Learn more about Synergy's CAC>>](#)

*Name changed to protect privacy

News & Events



Fashion Statement

Agencies across the community joined together earlier this month for "Wear Blue Day" to raise awareness of child abuse and fuel the conversation to create solutions. Check out Wear Blue photos of your favorite child-serving agencies and catch up on the latest at [Prevent Child Abuse KC](#).



Award Winning Companion

Synergy's therapy dog extraordinaire, Rasta, brings comforting support and unconditional love to abuse victims throughout the agency. He was honored earlier this month by the **Platte County Prosecutor's Office** for his work in a new setting-- Platte County courtrooms. Our thanks to Platte County Prosecutor, Eric Zahnd, for his support of Rasta's work! [You can see the full story on Fox 4 News here>>](#)



Nothing but the Best

High quality programs require an ongoing focus on training. Earlier this month, our Children's Advocacy Center hosted attendees from child-serving agencies throughout the metro for a discussion around Best Practices in Child Abuse Cases. Our thanks to Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor, Erin Lueker, for facilitating the productive session!



Many Hands Make Light Work

April is host to National Volunteer Week and we want to thank all the heroes that lend a hand at Synergy! The work is often not glamorous, but you do it willingly and help bridge the gaps to ensure we can provide high quality care and services. We couldn't do it without your helping hands! Looking for your chance to volunteer? [Learn more today>>](#)



Kindness Always Wins

It's kindness for the win this year as we host the Kindest Kansas Citian Awards gala at Arrowhead Stadium complete with KMBC 9 Sportscaster **Len Jennings** as emcee. Our honorary stars, the **Carey & Todd Crossley family** and the **Byron & Jeanne Thompson family** have been scoring big in the kindness department for many years in Kansas City and the 20 Kindest Kansas Citian Award winners are heavy hitters too. **Join us as we celebrate them all!** With the evening's proceeds benefiting programs that make a big difference, it's a Win-Win!

Calling all Golfers

Whether you're a scratch golfer or just looking for a good time with friends, Swing Fore Synergy is a great excuse to sneak in a round of 18, since every dollar raised goes to support Synergy's **Street Outreach** team! This year's tournament is July 22 at the Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate. **Sign-up your team of four** to compete in a scramble format for bragging rights and prizes. No matter how you finish, breakfast, lunch and ice-cold beer are provided.

[Home](#) | [Contact](#) | [About Us](#) | [Giving](#)



Make a Gift

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

Synergy Services
400 East 6th Street, Parkville, MO 64152